

to be able to build that housing, so it has been incredibly popular.

That is why we have to increase the amount of capital we are going to put towards the tax incentive. The reason why we have to do that is that the United States has a supply shortage.

You can ask: Why did we get to this supply shortage?

If you ask me, it was really accentuated in the downturn of 2008, when so many more individuals fell out of the job market, creating more demand for affordable housing at that price point. We also, at that point, had a lot of returning veterans, and we had really some very big changes in the diversification of our economy. We had a lot of mental health that had been deinstitutionalized and pushed in a different direction. And we had changes in policy as we saw the challenges of an aging population, really, living a lot longer than people anticipated and they are also needing housing.

We had all these issues combined to this dramatic effect of 6.8 million affordable housing shortage in the United States of America. That is the amount of units that we actually have to build.

I wish I could say these problems go away if you just don't—if you say: Well, if they don't build the housing, it will just take care of itself.

No, it doesn't take care of itself. If these people end up being homeless, it costs 30 percent more to deal with them in our hospitals and in jails. In various places, the people who are truly homeless and living on the streets are extra costs.

We actually had hospitals support building affordable housing just so people wouldn't be in their emergency room every day. That is how much it was worth to hospitals to have affordable housing.

So the crisis, as we know in America, is that there are now 10.5 million Americans who pay more than 50 percent of their income in rent. That means they are rent-burdened. This number has just continued to go up in the charts for years in growth and, basically, continued to exacerbate the problem. Why? Because people will tell you, you can't spend 50 percent of your income in rent.

These dynamics are what is plaguing us in the United States; and it is a problem that, until we increase the affordable housing tax credit, you are not going to get the relief that you think you can get out of this situation.

Our legislation—myself and Senator YOUNG's legislation—would have increased the tax credit by 50 percent over a 10-year period of time. That would have helped us build a million more units of affordable housing and try to address this problem in the near term.

I hope our colleagues will—as we work through both the proposals that have been part of our infrastructure bill and the reconciliation act—will look and see that we need to include

the low-income housing tax credit as part of that proposal. If we don't have the affordable housing tax credit as part of that proposal, we are not going to have the robust solutions that we need.

While I understand there are very geographic differences across the United States—the East Coast may have some particular aspects that will be very benefited, and the West Coast has other aspects that would benefit—we all can benefit from the low-income housing tax program. That is what is so unique about it.

Every State has used it with great flexibility. Every State has used it to solve their problems, and the incentives have helped us stimulate the economy. It is literally worth billions of dollars of economic activity, and that is why we also should be making this investment.

Many times when our country has faced a downturn in the sixties or seventies or eighties, you would hear a shout-out for housing. People would say: Let's build housing.

Well, you haven't heard that shout-out in the last decade or so. You literally haven't for a bunch of different reasons. No one has been trumpeting: We need more housing.

I tell you, Mr. President, we need more affordable housing for those individuals. And I have met so many in my State whose lives have been changed—literally changed.

A woman basically got out of an abusive relationship and moved in with her father in Walla Walla, but knew it wasn't sustainable. She lived in Billingham. Basically, the affordable housing program in Walla Walla got her and her son into a home. She started school. She got a job, changed her life.

I have seen it recently in Spokane. Take a couple who basically had become homeless. They separated. They had children that couldn't all live together. They brought them back together under one roof. And in this particular housing project, the promise was made by the partners that everybody in that particular housing would get access not only to help them get a high school education, but a college education as well.

That is what you can do with these projects. You can tailor-make them with community partners to address the needs of your specific community.

So this tax credit is bipartisan. It worked successfully. I would say it is one of the most successful programs that we had in the United States for getting affordable housing. Let's not leave it off the table. Let's put it in this legislation and make sure it gets to the goal line of the President's desk and is signed into law.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). The Senator from Rhode Island.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote be immediately initiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON DELLINGER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Dellinger nomination?

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have noted “nay.”

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 445 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Gillibrand	Murray	Warren
Graham	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—37

Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Toomey
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Portman	

NOT VOTING—10

Barrasso	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Burr	Kennedy	Young
Cramer	Moran	
Feinstein	Rounds	

The nomination was confirmed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS' 8,000TH VOTE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I rise today to recognize a great milestone in this Chamber. Our colleague SUSAN COLLINS will in a few moments cast her 8,000th vote.